

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A process for the production of water dispersible granules comprising, preparing a pre-mix in the form of a free-flowing powder comprising an active material and an excipient with at least one component of the pre-mix being liquid, without forming a paste, feeding the pre-mix as a free-flowing powder to an extruder and extruding the pre-mix to form the water dispersible granules.
2. (original): A process according to claim 1 in which a liquid is adsorbed onto an active solid material.
3. (original): A process according to any one of the preceding claims in which the pre-mix is a homogeneous powder.
4. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the premix is formed by the application of shear.
5. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the pre-mix comprises an active material and an excipient selected from a surfactant, a filler, a disintegrant, a stabiliser, a flow aid and mixtures thereof.
6. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which comprises preparing the pre-mix in a blending step and optionally in a milling step.
7. (original): A process according to claim 6 in which the blending step is carried out for a period of at least 30 seconds.
8. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims 6 or 7~~ claim 7 which comprises feeding the active material to a blending step, passing the blended material to a milling step so as to reduce the particle size of the blended material and passing the milled material to a further blending step to produce the pre-mix.

9. (original): A process according to claim 8 in which the first blending step is conducted under conditions of high shear and the second blending step is conducted under conditions of low or moderate shear.

10. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~ claim 9 in which the active material and an excipient selected from a disintegrant, a filler and a surfactant and mixtures thereof are blended in a blending step.

11. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 10~~ claim 10 in which a liquid and optionally a further excipient selected from a surfactant, a disintegrant and a filler are added to the process in a second or subsequent blending step.

12. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the liquid is added as a spray.

13. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which further comprises drying and optionally size classifying the extruded material.

14. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the active material is selected from, a pharmaceutical, an agricultural chemical, an oil field chemical, an animal feedstuff, a dyestuff, and a detergent.

15. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the active material is an agricultural chemical and is selected from, bensulfuron-methyl, captan, chloridazon, chlorsulfuron, glyphosate, oxyfluorfen and propanil.

16. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the pre-mix comprises a surfactant selected from alkyl aryl sulphonates, alkyl aryl sulphosuccinates, alkyl sulphates and lignosulphonates.

17. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 in which the granule comprises propanil and excipients comprising an alkyl aryl sulphonate, a lignosulphonate, a disintegrant and a filler.

18. (canceled)